

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-29. (Canceled).

30. (Previously Presented) A foam-filled hollow body, comprising:
an inner wall;
an outer wall spaced from the inner wall, the outer wall having an opening therethrough;
a reinforcing plate positioned on an inner side of the outer wall and coupled to the outer wall by a clinch connection, the reinforcing plate having a hole therethrough, the hole in the reinforcing plate being aligned with the opening in the outer wall;
a destructible layer positioned between the reinforcing plate and the outer wall so as to cover the hole in the reinforcing plate and the opening in the outer wall so as to cover the hole in the reinforcing plate and the opening in the outer wall, the destructible layer being formed of a substantially incompressible material, wherein the clinch connection is made without substantial heating of the destructible layer and without causing the destructible layer to move such that the destructible layer would uncover the opening in the outer wall; and
foam insulation located between the inner wall and the outer wall, wherein the destructible layer prevents the foam insulation from escaping from the opening in the outer wall.

31. (Currently Amended) The foam-filled hollow body of claim 30 29, wherein the clinch connection causes a portion of the destructible layer located at

the clinch connection to be broken off and driven into a recess in the reinforcing plate.

32. (Currently Amended) The foam-filled hollow body of claim 30 ~~29~~, wherein the foam-filled hollow body is the housing of a refrigerating appliance.

33. (Currently Amended) The foam-filled hollow body of claim 32 ~~34~~, further comprising a hinge plate that is attached to the outer wall by a fastener that passes through the opening in the outer wall and that is coupled to the hole in the reinforcing plate by screw threads, wherein the fastener pierces the destructible layer.

34. (Currently Amended) A foam-filled hollow body, comprising:
an inner wall;
an outer wall spaced from the inner wall, the outer wall having an opening therethrough;
a ~~mounting~~ reinforcing plate positioned on an inner side of the outer wall and coupled to the outer wall by a mechanical connection, the reinforcing plate having a threaded hole therethrough, the threaded hole in the reinforcing plate being aligned with the opening in the outer wall;
a destructible layer positioned between the reinforcing plate and the outer wall so as to cover the hole in the reinforcing plate and the opening in the outer wall, the destructible layer being formed of a substantially inelastic material;
and
foam insulation located between the inner wall and the outer wall, wherein the destructible layer prevents the foam insulation from escaping from the opening in the outer wall.

35. (Currently Amended) The foam-filled hollow body of claim 34 ~~33~~, wherein the mechanical connection that couples the reinforcing mounting plate to the outer wall comprises a fastener that passes through the outer wall, the destructible layer and the reinforcing mounting plate.

36. (Currently Amended) The foam-filled hollow body of claim 35 ~~34~~, wherein the fastener is a rivet.

37. (Currently Amended) The foam-filled hollow body of claim 34 ~~33~~, wherein the mechanical connection that couples the reinforcing mounting plate to the outer wall is a clinch connection in which a portion of the outer wall is driven into a recess in the reinforcing mounting plate, and wherein a portion of the destructible layer at the clinch connection is broken off and driven into the recess in the reinforcing mounting plate.

38. (Currently Amended) The foam-filled hollow body of claim 34 ~~33~~, wherein the foam-filled hollow body is the housing of a refrigerating appliance.

39. (Currently Amended) The foam-filled hollow body of claim 38 ~~37~~, further comprising a hinge plate that is attached to the outer wall by a fastener that passes through the opening in the outer wall and that is coupled to the threaded hole in the reinforcing mounting plate by screw threads, wherein the fastener pierces the destructible layer.